

Urmston Urban District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

for . . 1936

*by*

A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,  
Acting Medical Officer of Health

*and*

ROBERT G. CHILD, M.S.I.A.,  
Sanitary Inspector.

Issued by the Urmston Urban District Council.

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6/9/37.



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MAY, 1937.

# The Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1936.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

CROFTS BANK ROAD,

URMSTON,

MAY, 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of  
the Urmston Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1936.

The late Dr. D. W. Davidson was Medical Officer of Health until September 19th of the year under review.

## SECTION A :—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, 4,797 acres.

Population (Census, April 1931) 9,284.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population,  
1936, 28,850.

Number of occupied houses (Census 1931) ..... 2,474

„ „ „ „ 31st Dec., 1936 ..... 9,178

„ „ unoccupied houses 31st Dec., 1936 ... 189

General Rate, 1936-37, 11/7d.

The Rateable Value at 31st December, 1936, was £295,786 and the sum represented by a penny rate £1,189 8s. 11d.

The geographical position of Urmston is 6 miles W.S.W. from Manchester and 204 miles from London.

With the exception of the Trafford Park area of Davyhulme the district is chiefly residential, the residents being mainly dependent on Manchester and surrounding districts for their livelihood.

The chief industries carried on in Trafford Park are :—petroleum storage, oil refining, manufacture of asbestos, steel, wire, rubber, chemicals and furniture, also engineering and electricity works, tea bonding and abattoirs products.

Unemployment in the district is not extensive in comparison with surrounding areas.

# VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Total M. F.			Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 16.1.
	Legitimate	457	238	219
	Illegitimate	8	4	4
	Total	465	242	223

Still Births	Legitimate	25	16	9	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 52.
	Illegitimate	1	1	—	
	Total	26	17	9	

Deaths ...	319	157	162	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, * 11.0.
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Deaths from Puerperal causes—

Puerperal sepsis Other puerperal causes	Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.	
	—	—	—	—
	3	—	—	—
Total	3	—	6.10	—

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births...	47
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	48
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	41
„ „ Measles (all ages) ...	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	—

Population	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death Rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
28,850							
Mean of 5 years—							
1931—1935	14.7	10.9	0.38	1.74	3.92	3.72	53
Year 1935 ...	16.2	10.0	0.32	1.64	6.60	6.32	33
1936	16.1	* 11.0	0.27	1.42	6.45	6.10	47
Increase or Decrease in 1936 on 5 years average, 1931-1935	+1.4	+0.1	—0.11	—0.32	+2.53	+2.38	—6

Previous Year ...	—0.1	+1.0	—0.05	—0.22	—0.15	—0.22	+14
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\*1936 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1.09)=11.9 per 1,000



# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1936.

	Males	Females
Measles ... ..	1	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	1
Diphtheria ... ..	—	1
Influenza ... ..	3	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	6	2
do. (non-respiratory) „	1	1
General Paralysis of Insane ...	—	1
Cancer ... ..	22	19
Diabetes ... ..	2	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... ..	7	14
Heart Disease ... ..	35	45
Aneurysm ... ..	1	—
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	8	4
Bronchitis ... ..	3	5
Pneumonia ... ..	10	6
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	2	2
Peptic Ulcer ... ..	4	—
Diarrhœa ... ..	—	1
Appendicitis ... ..	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	2	—
Other diseases of Liver ... ..	1	2
Other digestive diseases ... ..	2	8
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	6	3
Puerperal causes ... ..	—	3
Congenital Debility, etc. ... ..	9	10
Senility ... ..	4	15
Suicide ... ..	2	1
Other violence ... ..	7	3
Other defined causes ... ..	17	14
Ill-defined or not known ... ..	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All causes	157	163
Deaths of Infants under one year { Total	11	11
{ Legitimate	11	11
{ Illegitimate	—	—

There has not been any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has required investigation or any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy.

There is no evidence to shew that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

## SECTION B :—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**—Pathological and bacteriological examinations are undertaken by arrangement with the Manchester University, Department of Bacteriology & Preventive Medicine at their Laboratory in York Place, Manchester. The number of examinations carried out during the year was 119 made up as follows :—

Month	Diphtheria	Human Tuberculosis Sputum	Milk		Water	
			Bacterio-logical	Tubercle Bacilli	Bacterio-logical	Chemical
January	4		3	2		
February	4					
March	5	I	2			
April	6		3	2		
May	6					
June	22					
July	13		1	I		
August	12		2			
September	10				I	I
October	7					
November	4					
December	7					
	100	I	II	5	I	I

(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**—For the removal of cases of infectious disease, the motor ambulances belonging to the Salford Corporation and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board are available. For non-infectious cases, accident cases and maternity patients arrangements exist with the Stretford, Eccles, and Salford Corporations for the use of their motor ambulances.

(c) **NURSING IN THE HOME.**—For general nursing purposes nurses from the Urmston Cottage Hospital, and the Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme Nursing Association visit patients as required. The Association does not undertake midwifery cases (i.e., attendance at confinement without a medical practitioner) or monthly nursing. The Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association and employs two nurses permanently and one additional nurse temporarily as required. As regards the nursing at home of cases of infectious disease, no special arrangements are in operation.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.—Maternity and child welfare centres and a school clinic in the district are provided by the Lancashire County Council. Consultations and treatment at the welfare centres is provided each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 2-30 p.m. to 4-0 p.m. and the school clinic each Monday from 9-30 a.m. to 12-0 noon. All these are well attended and much appreciated by mothers and their children in this district.

The Council do not employ or subsidise any midwife. The number of midwives on the Lancashire County Council Register at 31st December, 1936, and practising in the district was ten.

Under the provisions of the Midwives Act, 1936, the Lancashire County Council will shortly appoint a number of salaried midwives in the district.

(e) HOSPITALS.—By an Agreement dated 9th Sept. 1930, between the Council and the Bury & District Joint Hospital Board, provision is made for the reception at the Board's Hospital of small-pox patients from this district. Two beds are available for which an annual retaining fee is paid.

For other infectious diseases an arrangement exists with the Salford Corporation for the accommodation of patients at their Ladywell Sanatorium, Salford. For the treatment of Tuberculosis the sanatoria of the Lancashire County Council are available.

General hospital accommodation for the use of inhabitants of the district is available at the hospitals of Manchester & District, Salford, Eccles and Davyhulme, also the Urmston Cottage Hospital. The Council contributes an annual sum to the Manchester and Salford Medical Charities Fund.

## SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation and is of good quality. A constant and direct supply is maintained to each dwelling-house in the district.

The question of liability to plumbo-solvent action has been raised from time to time, but it is considered that although the water is very soft, no action need be taken with regard to its liability to act on lead pipes.

The water is analysed at regular intervals by the Manchester Corporation Waterworks department, and the results both chemically and bacteriologically are quite satisfactory.



**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—Extensions of the sewerage system have been carried out during the year in the Trafford Park area. This scheme is still in hand and expected to be completed by the end of June, 1937.

All sewers in the district are flushed with fresh water as required and all new drains are submitted to water test.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—All water courses are regularly inspected and action taken where necessary to check pollution.

**SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.**—At the end of the year there were :—

19 Privy Middens.    26 Privy Closets.    63 Pail Closets.  
 22 Dry Ashpits (excluding middens).    9,367 Movable  
 Ashbins.    9,335 Houses on water carriage system.  
 9,364 Fresh Water Closets.    71 Waste Water Closets.

Conversions.		During year 1936	During five years 1931-35
No. of Privy Closets	{ To fresh W.C.'s.	—	—
	{ To waste W.C's.	—	—
	{ To Pail Closets	—	—
No. of Pail Closets	{ To fresh W.C's.	26	4
	{ To waste W.C's.	—	—
No. of waste W.C's to fresh W.C's. ....		—	—
No. of houses at which movable ash- bins have been substituted for fixed receptacles .....		2	4

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**—The collection and disposal of house refuse and the scavenging of roads and streets is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and particulars of this work are given in his report.

**SHOPS.**—The necessary steps have been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.**—Two preliminary notices were served during the year to abate nuisances arising from the emission of black smoke and which were complied with. 91 observations were taken by the department.

The Council is represented on the Manchester & District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

SWIMMING BATHS.—The Council have erected at a cost of £30,000 an indoor swimming pool with slipper, foam, and medicated baths. Bacteriological and chemical examinations of the water have shewn the condition to be satisfactory. There are not any privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in the district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—During the year information was received by the department of 6 council houses and 24 privately owned houses being infested with these vermin. In each case disinfestation was carried out by spraying with powerful liquid fumigants, this work being carried out by the Council's own workman under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

SCHOOLS.—All are kept in a good sanitary condition and are sufficiently supplied with water. The department is in constant co-operation with the School Authorities in relation to the health of the scholars and for preventing the spread of infectious disease.

## SECTION D.—HOUSING.

### I—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1—(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	144
---	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	601
--	-----

2—(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	59
--	----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	250
--	-----

3—Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	85
--	----

4—Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	59
---	----

### 2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF STATUTORY NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Council or their Officers...	52
--	----

—ACTION UNDER *STATUTORY* POWERS DURING THE YEAR—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	8
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of statutory notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	7
(b) By the Council in default of owners	Nil.

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of statutory notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	Nil.
(b) By the Council in default of owners	Nil.

(C) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	1

(D) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil.
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#### 4—HOUSING ACT, 1935.—OVERCROWDING.

(A)—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	15
(2) Number of families dwelling therein			15
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein			108
(B) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	Nil.
(C) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	..	... Nil.


HOUSING CONDITIONS.—There are no “ back-to-back ” houses, all being of the “ through ” type. There is still a good demand for houses, but in view of the constant building by private enterprise and the houses erected by the Council, I consider the requirements of the district are reasonably satisfied. Under the Housing Act 1935 (Overcrowding), only 15 houses were found to be overcrowded out of 7,888 surveyed. As regards fitness of the houses, no special difficulties have been found in taking action under the Public Health or Housing Acts, requests to execute repairs usually being complied with by owners of property. Each house has an adequate internal water supply and separate sanitary accommodation. There are 25 unhealthy areas in the district requiring action under the Housing Act, 1930.

#### SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—The supply is obtained partly locally and partly from outside districts, and is generally of a wholesome character. The cowsheds, dairies and milkshops are inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors and are generally in a fairly good condition. Three licences to sell “ Certified ” milk, two “ Grade A ” and two “ Pasteurised ” were granted during the year. There was no cause to refuse any application for registration or revoke licences for graded milk. Two dairymen in the district have been licensed by the County Council for the production of “ Accredited ” milk.

The veterinary inspection of dairy cows in this district is under the jurisdiction of the Lancashire County Council.



 MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Periodical visits of inspection are made by the Sanitary Inspectors to three slaughterhouses, one cold stores, and twenty-five butchers' shops in the district. There was cause to condemn 122-lbs., being parts of carcasses of meat affected with Tuberculosis. There are 24 bakehouses in the district all of which are generally kept in a good sanitary condition. Thirty-one Inspections were made during the year.

ADULTERATION, CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—The sampling and analysis of food and drugs in this district is under the control of the Lancashire County Constabulary.

NUTRITION.—No special work in connection with the dissemination of knowledge on this subject has been undertaken.

## SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.


Each acute case notified is visited at once by one of the Sanitary Inspectors and isolation is arranged either at the patient's home or by removal to Ladywell Sanatorium, Salford. When cases are isolated at home all children from the infected house are prevented from attending school until such time as the house is free from infection. On termination of the case by removal to hospital, recovery, or death, the room and its contents are thoroughly fumigated under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector, and the bedding is submitted to super-heated steam disinfection. Diphtheria Anti-toxin is provided by the Council and a constant supply is available at all the chemists in the district.

The hospital accommodation available for cases of infectious disease is utilised to the best advantage, removal to hospital only being undertaken when isolation at the patient's home is not practicable.

It has not been considered necessary to make any use of the "Schick" and "Dick" tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever but the Council has under consideration a scheme for providing free immunisation against Diphtheria for children resident in the district, provided sufficient support is given by parents in giving consent for the treatment.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1936.

Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													HOSPITAL.		
	Total cases at all ages.	under 1	YEARS.										65 and over	Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65				
Scarlet Fever...	93		2	6	8	11	41	13	3	5	4				54	
Diphtheria ...	24	1			2	11	2	1	3	3	4			3	27	3
Acute Primary Pneumonia } " Influenzal "	28			2	1		2	2	1	2	9	4	5	9	9	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	17									14	3				16	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	3			1				1			1			2	3	2
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	3	1	1			1									3	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2													2	
Erysipelas ...	6									1			3		5	
Whooping Cough ...	1				1										1	
Totals ...	177	4	2	10	10	14	54	18	5	25	21	7	7	14	120	9

 **CANCER.**—No special enquiries such as those outlined in the Ministry of Health circular 1136, dated 31st July, 1930, have been undertaken on behalf of the Council. Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of Cancer are available at the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester.

Forty-one deaths occurred during the year equal to an annual death rate of 1.42 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

**DISINFECTION.**—During the year 243 rooms at 198 houses and also 136 bundles of bedding which had been exposed to infection were disinfected. No arrangements are available in the district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons as such arrangements have not been found necessary.

**PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.**—No action has been taken under Section 88 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1935, in connection with tuberculous employees in the milk trade and no compulsory removal to hospital has been required under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The notification of Tuberculosis in this district may be considered efficient, the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to the total tuberculosis deaths during the year being nil.

There is not any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during 1936, are given in the following form :—

# TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1936.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1 ...								
1—5 ...			2	3				
5—10 ...			1					
10—15 ...			1	1				
15—20 ...				1				
20—25 ...	4	2		2		1		1
25—35 ...	1	4	1	1	1		1	
35—45 ...		3						
45—55 ...	4	2			1	1		
55—65 ...	3				3			
65 & upwards			1					
Totals	12	11	6	8	5	2	1	1
	23		14		7		2	

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

A. V. STOCKS,

Acting Medical Officer of Health



# Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

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COUNCIL OFFICES,  
CROFTS BANK ROAD,  
URMSTON,

MAY, 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of  
the Urmston Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I submit my report on the Health Department for the year ending 31st December, 1936.

The year has been a strenuous one in many respects, in view of the rapid development of the district, the newly invested powers under the Shops (Hours of Closing) Act, and the Housing (Overcrowding) Act, and the continued Slum Clearance, all of which have greatly increased the duties of the department and made it necessary to appoint a further additional Sanitary Inspector during the year.

At the end of 1936 there were 9367 houses in this district, 189 of which were empty. 540 are new houses built during the year. This is an increase of 701 occupied houses since 1935.

On these figures I estimate the population of the district at 30,000.

I append a summary of the various visits and inspections so far as they can be tabulated:—

Complaints received and investigated ..... 268

## INSPECTIONS MADE :—

Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	601
„ „ (Housing Act, 1935)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1787
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	341
New Drains (tested)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	433
Water courses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Public markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	174
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Butchers Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	161
Visits re Shops Acts...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	221
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Outworkers Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	263
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Re-Inspections and miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	628
Visits to Cold Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
,, re Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Total								5622

Number of carcasses examined at Cold Stores	...	294
Diseased meat or offal surrendered in		
private slaughter-houses	...	122-lbs.
Number of milk samples taken	...	39
Preliminary Notices served	...	198
Statutory do. do.	...	9

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—

Number of cases enquired into	...	110
,, of cases removed to hospital	...	89
,, of houses disinfected	...	123
,, of schools disinfected	...	Nil

Most of the nuisances found to exist were remedied on informal request and it was only necessary to serve statutory notices in the following cases, all of which have been complied with.

Section 94. Public Health Act, 1875.....	6
Section 17. Housing Act, 1930 .....	8

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The work of the cleansing department continues to be carried out in a satisfactory manner.

The whole of the house, trade and other refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping which is still proving very beneficial and economical.

As mentioned in my previous report, additional land was required for this disposal. I am pleased to say that during the year Gregory Farm Estate was purchased by the Council after Public Enquiry by the Ministry; the bulk of the land to be used for the purpose of controlled tipping, so that your district has now suitable and sufficient accommodation for many years.

The cleansing work is enlarging year by year, the increase on house refuse alone amounting to 440 tons. Trade refuse was slightly lower, but other refuse, which includes highway waste, road sweepings and gully sludge, was up by 1,015 loads over the previous year. The weight per load of house refuse is taken as one ton, based on an average of weighings over a period.

The number of bins emptied weekly reaches approximately 9,367.

5,760 tons of house refuse was collected and this represents 12.5 cwts. per occupied house for the year, or 10.5 cwts per 1,000 population per day.

	s.	d.
The collection costs per ton .....	9	10½.
The disposal do. ....	1	8½.
Total—Collection and Disposal ...	11	7.

The collection costs per bin per week is approximately 1.4d

The total numbers of loads of refuse received and dealt with at the tip during the year were as follows :—

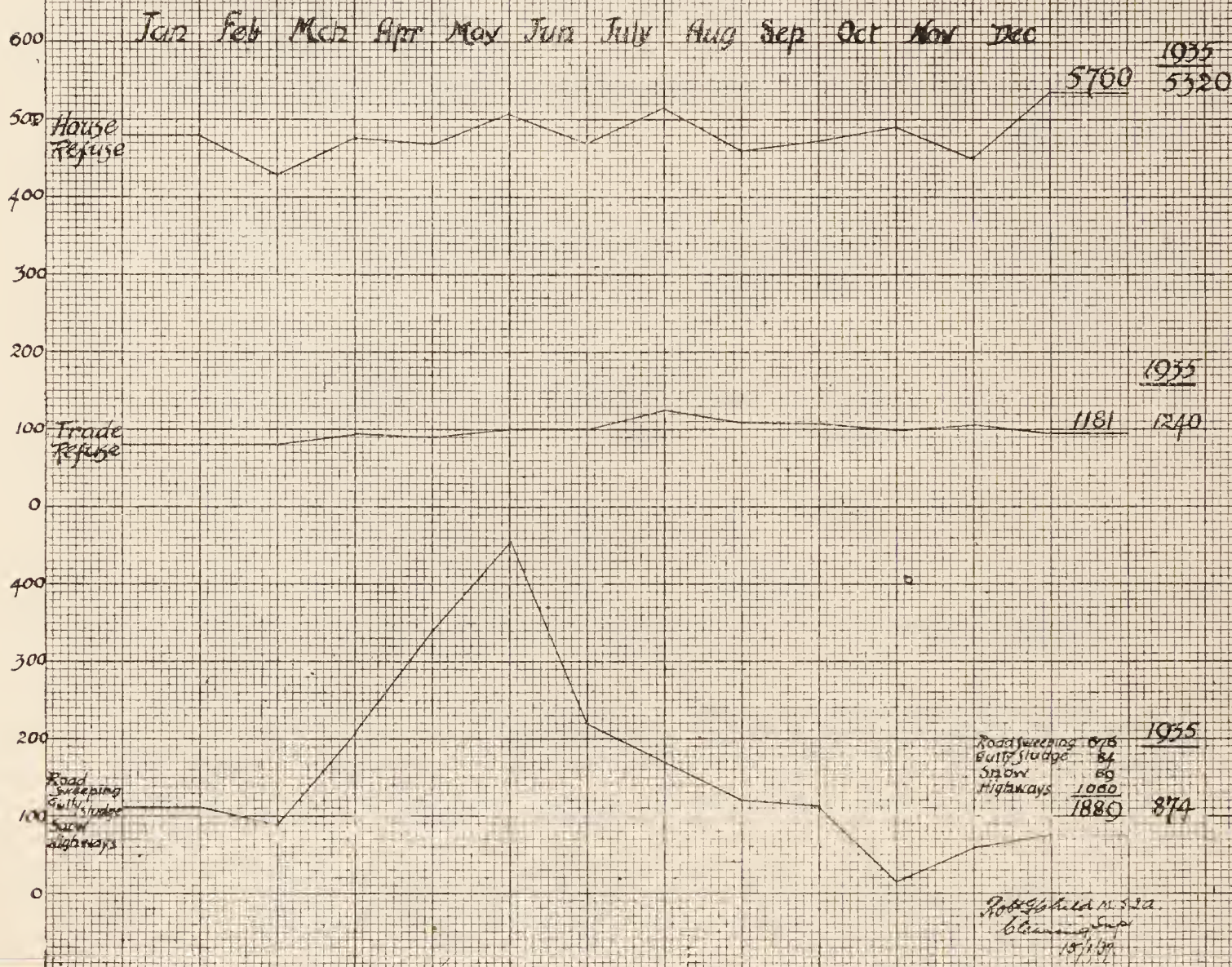
	1936	1935	1934
House Refuse	5760	5320	5143
Trade Refuse	1181	1240	1115
Other Refuse :			
Road Sweeping   676			
Gully Sludge     84			
Snow             69			
Highways       1060	1889	874	485
	8830	7434	6743

The foregoing figures shew the general increase taking place from year to year, due to development.

I append a chart shewing the fluctuation in the collection and disposal of this refuse for each calendar month throughout the year.



Loads of House and Other Refuse collected or dealt with  
during the year ending Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1935



## STREET CLEANSING.

This work was reorganized at the beginning of the financial year. Hired team labour was dispensed with and substituted by street orderlies with a small runabout three-wheel lorry for clearing purposes, and disposal to the tip; this arrangement so far has been very satisfactory.

With regard to the cleansing of street gullies which was carried on by the unsatisfactory and filthy method of hand scope and tumbler cart, I am pleased to say that my Committee gave the matter very careful consideration and decided to purchase a mechanical gully emptier with an interchangeable refuse collecting body. This rearrangement was ready for putting into operation with the new year and I feel sure will prove an advance in the cleanliness of the district.



## HOUSING ACT, 1930. (Slum Clearance)

During the past twelve months the department has been exceptionally busy in this direction, work of Slum Clearance having gained considerable momentum, and in consequence a larger proportion of the time of my staff has been given up to this important work.

The total number of visits made in this connection during the year was 256, in respect of 137 houses and as a result of these inspections 13 Clearance Orders under Part I of the Act were made by the Council, consisting of 68 houses. Of these, 12 areas have been the subject of representations to the Ministry of Health.

The number of dwelling houses demolished during the year under confirmed Clearance Orders (Part I of the Housing Act) was 22. The families previously occupying these dwellings have been re-housed in newly erected Council property on conveniently situated sites, as near as practicable to their old homes.

Under Part II of the Act, 3 dwelling houses have been demolished following Demolition Orders made under Section 19, and the families re-housed as in the case of the Clearance Areas.

In addition to the foregoing, two individual unfit houses have been demolished by the owners without resort to statutory action.

Houses dealt with which were capable of repair at a reasonable expense total 8, and of these, 7 were rendered fit after the service of the Section 17 notice; the remaining house being the subject of further consideration owing to a dispute regarding ownership.

## HOUSING ACT, 1935 (Overcrowding).

With the passing of the above Act, it became increasingly evident that a large amount of additional work would fall on the shoulders of the Health Department, and it was necessary at the beginning of the year to obtain additional temporary staff.

Enumerators were engaged to carry out a preliminary survey (Survey A) of all the houses in the district suitable for occupation by the working class, and in this connection 7,888 visits were made. Out of the number of houses visited, it was found that a small proportion required further investigation, but after measurements had been taken only 15 houses in this district were actually overcrowded.

On January 1st, 1936 (appointed day), it became necessary that all owners should insert in their rent books of their tenants the "Permitted Number" of persons allowed to occupy such dwellings, and in consequence the owners in turn applied to the Health Department for this information.

For this purpose (Survey B) my Inspectors carried out 3,412 visits, and in each case obtaining the measurements of all rooms used for living or sleeping. The permitted numbers were then sent out to the applicants.

Although the initial work under this Act has now been completed, it is obvious that further duties will arise as the Act itself is progressive in character.

### **SHOPS ACTS 1912—1934.**

In January last, there was a transference of powers under the above Act from the Lancashire County Council to this authority; the Urmston Urban District Council now being responsible for the administration of this legislation.

A survey of all the shops in the district was commenced during the year and the shopkeepers advised as to their position with regard to Closing Hours, Half-day Closing, and the Employment of Young Persons, whilst at the same time the shops were inspected having regard to the sanitation, heating, and ventilation, etc.

There are approximately 450 shops or premises in the district coming within the jurisdiction of the Act, and although the survey and inspection is not yet complete, improvement is to be noticed in the general observance of Closing Hours.

Since the passing of the Shops Act, 1934, an addition has been made bringing within its scope lending libraries conducted for private profit, and in May 1937, further legislation will have effect regulating the Sunday Opening of shops.

In all 221 visits and inspections were made under this head during the year.

### **DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS**

#### **(Milk and Dairies Order, 1926).**

On the register under the above Order, there are 20 Cowkeepers, and 39 Dairymen or Milk Purveyors, and of the latter 12 are registered for the sale of bottled milk only. Eight of the milk purveyors come from outside the district.



Generally, the milk retailed in the district is of first quantity; two producers hold licences for the production of "Accredited" milk, three retailers hold licences for the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" milk, two for the sale of "Accredited" milk, and there are also two supplementary licences issued for the sale of "Pasteurised" milk.

The whole of the cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops in the district are regularly visited and the production and distribution of the milk is kept under constant supervision. In this connection 141 visits were made during the year.

The regular sampling of milk produced and sold in the district is being continued, 39 samples were obtained in the year and these were submitted for Biological (T.B.) and Bacteriological examination. The results of the Bacteriological examinations were generally satisfactory, but in one instance following the Biological examination of a sample, the presence of tubercle bacilli was found.

Energetic measures were taken to discover and isolate the affected animal, and these proved successful, the beast in question being afterwards slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

It is slowly being brought home to the farmer that the production of a reasonably clean milk as required by the "Special Designation Orders" is not a task outside the capabilities of the small producer, and that with the practical incentive now offered by the Milk Marketing Board, there appears to be distinct possibilities of securing an even better and cleaner milk supply in the future.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

At the present time there are 87 premises classed as factories in the district and 46 workshops, the latter being registered with this Authority.

A number of improvements have been effected to various workshops during the year, work having been carried out after informal notices had been given to the respective owners. On no occasion had statutory action to be resorted to.

The workshops are generally in a satisfactory condition and in all 46 visits were made in respect of the Factory and Workshops Acts, during the year.

There are five outworkers resident in the district, and although the places of work of these individuals were visited at frequent intervals no cause for complaint was in evidence at the time of these visits.

## BAKEHOUSES.

There are 23 bakehouses, none of which are underground, in the district, and these have been visited regularly in the past year. It has not been found necessary to report any contraventions of the Factory and Workshops Acts. What few minor defects were found, were remedied after verbal requests to the occupier.

The manner in which these premises are managed is excellent; on no occasion was there any cause to complain of lack of cleanliness, etc. In all, 31 visits were made in this connection during the year.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Three slaughterhouses are situated in the area. Of these one is registered and the other two licensed, in addition 25 retail butchers carry on business in the district.

The carcasses of all animals slaughtered for human food are regularly inspected at the time of slaughter, and generally speaking the meat is of good quality and there is rarely cause for complaint.

The total amount of diseased meat subject to voluntary surrender was 122-lbs., the largest part of which was affected with tuberculosis; it was unnecessary to make any official seizure at any time during this period.

130 visits were paid to slaughter-houses and 160 visits to butchers' premises; in addition, the public markets were kept under constant supervision.

Besides the work of inspection of food supplies sold by retail, six visits were made to the Cold Stores in Trafford Park, where 5 per cent. of all consignments of imported mutton and lamb were examined, 294 carcasses being subject to inspection.

## FOOD SAMPLING.

The Superintendent of Police reports the following samples obtained in the district under the Food and Drugs Act:—

1st January to 31st December, 1936.

1 Meat Pie	1 Sago
1 Egg Substitute	1 Tea
1 Trade Jelly	1 Canned Peas
1 Mixed Spice	1 Vinegar
1 Sift Flour	1 Zinc Ointment
1 Pot Pickles	1 Margarine
1 Butter	1 Coffee
2 Lard	1 Weak Tincture of Iodine
Milk ..... 38.	

All the above samples were found to be genuine on analysis.

No action taken during the year.



## PETROLEUM STORAGE.

The number of licences granted during the year under the Petroleum Act was 54. The quantity allowed to be stored under these licences was 219,074 gallons petrol and 597 tons of carbide of calcium.

With regard to the bulk storage of carbide, three works are involved, one for the preparation of special carbide blocks, one for canning, and one for the preparation of dissolved acetylene gas in cylinders.

With the exception of two instances the petrol is stored in properly constructed tanks.

All the regulations were duly observed.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Three trades are established under this heading; one for tripe boiling and gut scraping, and two soap boiling. No complaints were received in connection with these premises and the businesses are controlled in a satisfactory manner.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation to my staff for their loyal support and co-operation during the year.

ROBERT G. CHILD, M.S.I.A.,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector*

